

Hope-maker

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countless hardships but squeezed every penny possible from their meagre earnings to save for a charitable hospital. The couple saved money in two separate bank accounts for 12 years.

In 2001, Joynal and Lal Banu drew their whole savings of Tk 2.84 lakh and returned to village. They bought 23 decimals of land and constructed a house to live with their two children.

"With rest of the savings I opened a four-bed hospital in my house and named it after my daughter Momtaz," said Joynal.

Momtaz Hospital soon drew the attention of the villagers and people far beyond. On an average, the hospital offers first aid to around 25 patients a day while handing out pain killers, oral saline,

paracetamol, metronidazole, antacid and de-wormers.

Despite recognition from different quarters for his noble endeavour, Joynal finds it extremely difficult to run the hospital. From the very beginning, a local paramedic has helped Joynal treat patients while at a later stage an MBBS doctor agreed to pay occasional visits to the hospital in exchange of Tk 500 for a day's consultation.

In 2006, the local administration and the social welfare directorate donated Tk 30,000 for the hospital. In 2005, a Bangladeshi woman living in the USA gave him Tk 70,000 and World Vision, an NGO, supported with some medicines. Eminent personality Abdullah Abu Sayeed also extended help with Tk 10,000 and some medicines in 2004.

"For the last five years I have not received much help from anyone. With the price of medicines spiralling several folds during the time, running the hospital is now at stake. The hospital needs at least Tk 300 a day to function," Joynal said.

Alongside the hospital, Joynal has also started a free coaching centre and a maktab (Arabic learning centre) for poor primary school-goers. Around 50 children regularly receive tuition here.

He pays each of the two teachers -- Md Aiyub and Khalilur Rahman of the coaching Tk 3,500 a month. But this remuneration is very hard to bear for Joynal on a regular basis.

"I want to cling to my goal till I breathe the last and seek nothing more for me and my family," said the poor man

with eyes glittering in hope.

He, however, said that the thought of asking people to help the hospital haunts him. He said "Many people pledged me of many things while some even invited me for help and I came out of there labelled as a greedy fraud."

Once the people who pledged him help wanted to hand him over to police as a criminal. Recalling the incident Joynal said in a sulk tone, "Sometimes I don't want any help from others and become even more helpless."

"Coming of age, I have become unable to pull rickshaw anymore and there is no steady fund to run the hospital," said Joynal.

The villagers and the people of neighbouring villages adore and respect Joynal's initiative. Talking to

The Daily Star many of the villagers expressed sympathy for the poor rickshaw puller.

Fazal Ali and Ayub Ali of neighbouring Foliamari village said, "Momtaz Hospital may appear as nothing to the urban society, but the people here are greatly benefited from it as they have to go several miles for medicine from other places."

Many parents of the locality termed Joynal's learning centre a privilege for the underprivileged children.

Sabuj, Salma, Amena, Mithun, Amrul and Selina, all primary students who come to Joynal's coaching centre regularly, said they are given lesson without any fee and sometimes they are provided with free pencils, pen and paper.

Body of worker

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was missing since Friday night, said family sources.

Police recovered his body around 7:30am and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Delwar Hossain, Masud's grandfather alleged that his grandson was killed by some of his coworkers who hid the body on the fifth floor.

Masud's body was recovered from the fifth floor though his sandals were found lying on the ground floor, Delwar told The Daily Star.

Police detained a number of workers for interrogation.

Hayatuzzaman Mollah, investigation officer from Motijheel Police Station, said they have not affirmed whether it was an incident of killing or an accident, and will take further action based on the autopsy report.

DMC morgue sources said injury marks were found on the neck and back of the victim's head.

PM to open first Bangla

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The cell (<http://infokosh.bangladesh.gov.bd>) has numerous information on Bangladesh and its people, agriculture, education, health, law and human rights, tourism, employment, civic amenities, non-farm entrepreneurs, environment and disaster management, industry and commerce and science and technology.

The cell also has related audio, video, animations and documentaries in Bangla besides the text forms of information.

All the information is sourced from the published research works of around 148 government and 50 local non-government organisations and foreign firms.

Like the global Google, the cell also includes a search engine so that people can browse for their desired

information in Bangla.

The cell is a part of the government endeavour to ensure the people hassle-free access to necessary information under the Access to Information (A2I) project jointly by the Prime Minister's Office and United Nations Development Programme.

Under the project, information windows at different districts and information cells at 4,501 unions have already been established for proper dissemination of the information.

Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, Principal Secretary of the Prime Minister Md Abdul Karim, A2I Project Director Md Nazrul Islam Khan, UNDP Country Director Stefan Priesner and high government officials will attend the inaugural function.

Gaddafi set to arm civilians

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thousands, has seen opponents grab almost the entire east and loyalists embark on shooting sprees in the capital.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, whose country is the former colonial power in Libya, became the first Western leader to spell out that Gaddafi

appeared to have lost control of the situation.

"If we can all come to an agreement, we can end this bloodbath and support the Libyan people," he said.

Meanwhile, Obama issued an executive order seizing assets and blocking any property in the United States belonging to Gaddafi or four of his sons, saying the measures were not targeting the wealth of the Libyan people themselves.

The US president condemned the Libyan government's violation of human rights, "brutalisation of its people and outrageous threats".

In Tripoli, witnesses said two of the three five-star hotels were closed and the third, the Corinthia, had started to evacuate.

With banks closed, the dollar was trading for two Libyan dinars on the black market, compared to 1.30 dinars a day ago, and the euro at 2.5 Libyan dinars compared to 1.710 days ago.

Libya's ambassador to the United Nations, a childhood friend of Gaddafi, delivered an emotional speech to the Security Council, raising the spectre of Hitler, Stalin and Pol Pot, asking for his country to be spared.

After Mohammed Shalgham's speech, one Tripoli resident told AFP yesterday they were drawing up plans for a transitional government to take power.

"We are all waiting for Tripoli to end Gaddafi and his sons' rule," said Abdelhafiz Ghoqa.

In the nearby town of Ajdabiya, the main square has been named 'Hurreria' or Liberty Square, but local residents said conditions were miserable.

"The situation is bad. The bakeries are closed. Finding food is very hard. I have never seen a happy day in all of my years," said Idriss Mohamed, who at 42 is as old as the regime.

"We were terrified. We thought that meant they were preparing for attacks. We grabbed whatever we could use as weapons and stayed by the door in case anyone broke in," the resident said.

"We could still hear gunfire all night."

Security forces opened fire indiscriminately on worshippers leaving prayers in the Libyan capital on Friday, witnesses said.

Almost the entire east of Libya has slipped from Gaddafi's control since the popular uprising began in the port city of Benghazi on February 15, inspired by the revolutions in neighbouring Egypt and Tunisia.

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on imports.

"They do have limited production of wheat, barley and olives mainly in a small area around Benghazi, but that is not enough to meet the population's needs," a spokeswoman Emilia Casella said.

Foreign governments have scrambled to evacuate thousands of expatriates who told of scenes of hell since the crisis broke out 12 days ago.

After massive protests in Tunisia and Egypt forced the resignations of longtime leaders Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Hosni Mubarak, Libya's ruler of four decades appeared to dig in for a bitter fight to the end.

In a brief but chilling address that presaged a bloody battle for the capital, the army colonel who

grabbed power in 1969 told frenzied supporters in Tripoli's Green Square on Friday that the rebels would be defeated.

"We will fight them and we will beat them," he told a crowd of hundreds. "If needs be, we will open all the arsenals."

UN chief Ban Ki-moon has demanded decisive action by the Security Council, warning that any delay would add to the growing death toll, which he said came to more than 1,000.

Britain, France, Germany and the United States have drawn up a resolution which says the attacks on civilians could amount to crimes against humanity.

It calls for an arms embargo and a travel ban and assets freeze against Gaddafi and his entourage.

Mice can re-grow

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British experts said understanding the process could help human heart care.

NARROWWINDOW

The researchers at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre surgically removed what is known as the left ventricular apex of the heart (about 15 percent of the heart muscle) from mice just a day after birth.

The heart was then quickly seen to regenerate and was fully restored after 21 days. After two months, the organ still appeared to be functioning normally.

But when the same procedure was tested on mice aged one week, the heart failed to regenerate, suggesting this power of self-repair is extremely short-lived in mice.

The belief is that heart cells within the mouse have a narrow window after birth within which they can continue to replicate and repair. Subsequent tests suggested that these repair cells were coming from within the heart muscle.

"What our results show are that the new heart muscle cells which repair the amputated region of the heart came from proliferation and migration of pre-existing heart muscle cells," said Professor Eric Olson, who worked on the study.

"We have no evidence they came from a stem-cell population."

Many amphibians and

fish, most famously the zebrafish, have the ability to renew heart muscle right into adulthood.

This new study suggests mammals too have such capacity for self-repair, if only for a limited time after birth.

Professor Olson believes future research will show humans have a similar capacity, although no experiments involving human heart tissue are currently planned.

"There's no reason to believe that the same window would not exist in the human heart."

"Everything we know about development and early function of the mouse heart is comparable to the human heart so we're quite confident that this process does exist in humans, although that of course still has to be shown."

HEART ATTACKS

The team's focus is now on looking at ways to "re-awaken" this capacity to self-repair in adult mice, with the ultimate ambition to do the same in humans to repair damage sustained during heart attacks.

"We've identified a micro-RNA (a small piece of genetic material) which regulates this process so we're trying to use that as a way of further enhancing cardiac regeneration later in life and we're also screening for new drugs which can reawaken this mechanism in adult mice," he said.

Professor Jeremy Pearson, associate medical director of the British Heart Foundation, said the study showed heart regeneration was not the exclusive preserve of zebrafish and newts, but said more work needed to be done to understand what was actually going on inside the healing heart.

"This exciting research shows for the first time that young mice, like fish and amphibians, can heal their damaged hearts," he said. "It strengthens the view that understanding how this happens could provide the key to healing adult human hearts."

Professor Olson concedes

there will be problems ahead. What works in the low-pressure heart of a zebrafish, might not work in the high-pressure multi-chambered heart of humans.

Meddling with heart muscle cells could, for instance, trigger arrhythmias in the heart, he said.

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"The company officials fled the plant without prior notice soon after fighting between anti-government protesters and Gaddafi loyalists broke out," he alleged.

Rabbani, who is fluent in Arabic, took shelter in a house of an acquaintance and had informed his family that he would return as soon as the North African oil-rich country returns to normalcy.

"The Libyan armies have snatched everything from them including passports. They have also taken away a pair of spectacles, without which Rabbani cannot see properly," Rashid said.

"We do not know his whereabouts. When we talked last time he could not say where the army was taking him but he only said they are travelling in a car."

"He also told us that they were not given food for a few days. Rabbani has heart problems and becomes sick often and he has severe headache problem. We are very worried," Rashid said.

Rabbani had been working for Jhilton Cement Plant, owned by a Chinese company, as an engineer in Tripoli before the uprising against Libyan chief Col Muammar Gaddafi began

two weeks ago.

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